

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 11, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District #115, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 and called to order at 7:20 p.m. at West Campus in the Boardroom.

On Roll Call the following Members were found to be present:

Nicki Snoblin, Member
Jim Carey, Vice President
Dick Block, Secretary
Monty Edson, Member
Todd Burgener, Member
John Scribner, Member
Sharon Golan, President

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Dr. Julie Cooley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Cornelius DuBose, IT Director
Jay Hoffmann, Principal
Jennifer Knight, Director of Personnel and Instruction

Others: Michael Hernandez, Attorney

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Golan called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. She welcomed new superintendent, Michael Simeck. She asked the District's attorney, Mike Hernandez, to give an overview of the Board's last best final offer to the LFEA. Mr. Hernandez reported that at this point in negotiations, the two major financial differences between the Board proposal and the Teacher proposal are in Health Insurance contributions and Salaries. The Board seeks a 10% contribution from teachers who have HMO family coverage. The Board would pick up the other 90%. The LFEA wants the Board to pay 100%. The Board proposes salary increases of 2.6% (2013) 3.4% (2014) and 3.4% (2015) while the LFEA seeks 5.6%, 6.5% and 5.6% for the same time period. The LFEA also wants the Board to pick up increased costs in 5 additional areas of insurance coverage. The Board remains committed to maintaining a competitive salary and benefits program to attract and retain exceptional employees, protecting education programs and extra-curricular programs, addressing on-going facility needs, restoring the fund balances and remaining fiscally responsible to the community.

SUPER INDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Simeck reported that despite current unrest, the school year is off to a great start. He noted that the Freshman Orientation program, which features upperclassmen guiding freshman through a series of activities to support and encourage them and help acclimate them to the high school was very inspiring. He also reported that the reception for Olympic Gold Medal winner, Matt Grevers was well attended and that Mr. Grevers was gracious and kind as he signed autographs. He noted that he is impressed with the students and the respect they have for themselves and each other and the pride they take in their building which is evident in their behavior. He also complimented the professional and support staff for their commitment to their students.

Mr. Simeck is working on developing the next set of administrative talent and taking a look at how those positions will be filled. He is also working on the teacher and administrator evaluation system and is developing goals collaboratively with the Board.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peter Acker, 218 E. Scranton Avenue, Lake Bluff complimented the teachers and stated that he felt the Board's salary and benefit offer to the teachers is fair and consistent with other schools in the area. He also commented that if there is an excess fund balance the tax rate should go down to benefit taxpayers rather than be given to the teachers.

Gail Gamrath, 660 Green Bay Road, Lake Bluff is a graduate and commented on her experience as a student noting that she was well prepared for college. She voiced her concern that the high school will lose its competitive edge in being able to attract the best teachers if the two-tiered pay scale is implemented. She suggested the Board look at options like merit pay for teachers to retain teachers and bring the current teachers along.

Stephanie Martin 126 E. Sheridan Place, Lake Bluff asked what ACT scores are at Zion Benton and Maine in comparison to LFHS scores. She asked if any other schools on the North Shore with competitive ACT scores other than Highland Park use the two-tier system. She questioned if LFHS has considered offering benefits to new hires that are not available to experienced teachers.

Brad Kunde, 475 W. Deer path Lake Forest questioned if taxpayers would have to take on the burden of funding teacher salaries as stated in the teacher's requested salary schedule in light of the financial condition of the State of Illinois and the State payments still unpaid to the District. He said he was all for the teachers, but that they should step back and look at their numbers noting that the entire country is affected by current economic conditions.

Nancy Thorner, Lake Bluff, IL, expressed concern that the Board will not hold firm in salary negotiations. She commented that 90% of LFHS teachers earn around \$100,000 in salary. She said that as salaries go up, so do the pensions.

Rosemarie Harland, 690 S. Eaton Court said she respects teachers, but in this measure she supports the Board and this is not the time to strike. She feels a strike would hurt the reputation of the teachers, in light of the number of people who are unemployed and hurting,

The son of a resident at 66 Totteridge, who is also a LFHS graduate, voiced his concern about high teacher salaries and pensions noting that the State's largest debt is teacher pensions.

Julie Eckert, 518 Forest Cove Road, Lake Bluff asked that both sides work to come to an agreement this evening.

Mike Quaid 221 Keith Lane, Lake Forest asked if the Board has a plan in the eventuality of a strike and how long the teachers could strike and keep their jobs. Mr. Quaid asked if athletics could continue during the strike. Mr. Hernandez commented that a plan is in place but if there is a work stoppage no games could be played.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Jim Thiel, presented the college counseling report commenting that last year, counselors made over 60 college visits across the Midwest and other parts of the country. The majority of graduates attend Midwestern schools at this time but counselors will be traveling to western states to expand their knowledge of western schools to widen their information base for students as they look for school options. Mr. Thiel will attend the National Association of College Admission Counseling in Denver. Counselors continue to attend local college fairs and meetings to further develop relationships with admissions people. In March, a college seminar with 3 sessions on topics such as resume and essay writing, picking majors and looking at a career plan, loans and grants and the NCAA Clearinghouse and recruiting process was attended by 200 students and parents. Representatives from 260 schools across the country visited the high school last year to meet with students. Of students surveyed, 41% said that College Rep visits at the high school were beneficial in their college decision. The Class of 2012 applied to 480 different schools and attended 172 schools, a record number in recent years. There were more applicants and more acceptances to the most competitive schools last year than in the last 5 years and the second highest rate to Ivy League schools in the last five years. The top 3 private schools attended by the Class of 2012 are University of Dayton, DePauw and Hope College. The top 3 public schools are University of Illinois Urbana, Miami University at Oxford and Indiana University in Bloomington.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Education Committee

There was no meeting.

Operations Committee

There was no meeting.

Finance Committee

There was no meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

09/11/12

Adoption of 2012-2013 Budget

MOTION: Mr. Carey moved and Mrs. Snoblin seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the 2012-2013 budget as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Carey, Snoblin, Block, Edson, Burgener, Golan
Nay: None
Not present for vote: Scribner

Motion Carried

Rejection of Dectron Bids

Mr. Albus recommended that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education reject bids from Dectron for the replacement of air handling equipment next to the pool. Bids came in at double the anticipated cost. The Operations Committee will review alternatives at their next meeting.

MOTION: Mrs. Snoblin moved and Mr. Scribner seconded that the Board reject the Dectron Bids for the replacement of the natatorium mechanical unit.

ROLL CALL: Aye: Scribner, Snoblin, Carey, Block, Edson, Burgener, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Appointment of Open Meetings Act Designee and Local Election Official

MOTION: Mrs. Snoblin moved and Mr. Carey seconded that Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education appoint Mrs. Eileen Faller as the Open Meetings Act Designee and directs Mrs. Faller to complete the electronic training curriculum offered by the Illinois Attorney General's office within 30 days of her appointment and that Mrs. Faller be appointed the Local Election Official for the purpose of conducting election related matters required by the Illinois School Code and the Illinois Election Code.

ROLL CALL: Aye: Burgener, Carey, Block, Scribner, Snoblin, Edson, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval Auditorium Portico Repair

MOTION: Mr. Carey moved and Mr. Block seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve William Tonyan & Sons as contractors for the auditorium portico repair.

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ROLL CALL: Aye: Burgener, Carey, Block, Scribner, Snoblin, Edson, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of 1st Reading Asset Disposal

After discussion, the Board tabled this action item pending further information from the Administration.

Approval of Human Resources Report

MOTION: Mr. Carey moved and Mrs. Snoblin seconded that the Board of Education approve the Human Resources Report as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Carey, Snoblin, Block, Burgener, Edson, Scribner, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Golan reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Approval of Financial Reports and Schedule of Checks Written

Approval of Financial Reports:

Financial Reports: The List of Checks Written and Direct Deposit Payroll

From July 1, 2012 to August 8, 2012:

Education Fund	\$ 864,083.01
Building and Maintenance Fund	467,468.66
Debt Service Fund	-
Transportation Fund	30,607.26
Capital Projects Fund/ General	-
Procurement Card Expenses	117,119.74
Direct Deposit Payroll & Taxes	<u>593,269.67</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,027,548.34

The List of Checks Written and Direct Deposit Payroll

From August 10, 2012 to September 5, 2012:

Education Fund	\$ 683,227.14
Building and Maintenance Fund	214,614.93
Debt Service Fund	-
Transportation Fund	34,363.75
Capital Projects Fund/ General	122,054.72

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Procurement Card Expenses	342,414.07
Direct Deposit Payroll & Taxes	<u>608,186/79</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,004,861.40

Approval of Minutes: Including minutes of a Regular Meeting on July 17, 2012, Minutes of an Executive Meeting on July 17k, 2012, Minutes of a Joint Board Meeting on August 20, 2012, Minutes of an Executive Meeting on August 20, 2012, Minutes of a Special Meeting on September 5, 2012,

Destruction of audio recordings: August 18, 2010, September 7, 2010, October 12, 2010, October 25, 2010, November 2, 2010, January 11, 2011, January 13, 2011 and February 8, 2011.

Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board Member.

MOTION: Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Burgener seconded that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Block, Scribner, Edson, Carey, Scribner, Snoblin, Golan
 Nay: None

Motion Carried

FOIA REQUESTS:

Lisa Black, Chicago Tribune, 1717 Penny Lane Suite 3 Schaumburg, IL 60173
 Lisa Black, Chicago Tribune, 1717 Penny Lane Suite 3 Schaumburg, IL 60173
 Lisa Black, Chicago Tribune, 1717 Penny Lane Suite 3 Schaumburg, IL 60173
 Lisa Black, Chicago Tribune, 1717 Penny Lane Suite 3 Schaumburg, IL 60173
 Lisa Black, Chicago Tribune, 1717 Penny Lane Suite 3 Schaumburg, IL 60173
 Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Ave. Lake Bluff, IL 60044
 Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Ave. Lake Bluff, IL 60044
 Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Ave. Lake Bluff, IL 60044
 Rick Daniels, 1330 Kurtis Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045
 Christopher Yee, U.G. Commemorative, chris.yee@commemorative.com
 Bill Zettler, billz@cfbinc.com
 Dianne Rado, Chicago Tribune, drado@Tribune.com

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting. No action was taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

September 12, Open House
 September 13, Late Start Day
 September 26, Late Start Faculty Work Day

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October 8, Columbus Day – no school

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 9, 2012 Board of Education Meeting
7:00 pm – West Campus
Board Room

Mr. Simeck asked Mr. Hoffmann to report on Enrollment and ACT scores. Mr. Hoffmann reported that 6-day enrollment was 1690. ACT scores were the highest in the history of the school for the 7th year in a row. The Class of 2012 received a 26.9 composite score. Mr. Block commended Mr. Hoffmann and the staff on the consistent increases in ACT scores, particularly in Science.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Carey moved and Mr. Burgener seconded that the meeting be adjourned.
On voice vote, the motion carried

Mrs. Golan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.